



**Testimony
Elizabeth Gara
Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA)
Before the
Environment Committee
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The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) supports **HB-5320 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENFORCEMENT OF PROHIBITED ACTIONS CONCERNING CERTAIN INVASIVE PLANTS**, which will help strengthen efforts to eradicate invasive plants by authorizing conservation officers to enforce the law.

Every year, the introduction of harmful, non-native species into the U.S. has been increasing. Invasive non-native plants are a concern to the state's water companies because they can grow rapidly, are very prolific and can create permanent and serious problems for the public water supplies that are very costly to mitigate. For example, certain species clog intake valves that impede the flow of water. Other species displace native plants that are important to source water protection efforts.

Strengthening enforcement efforts to help eliminate invasive plant species will ensure that water companies can continue to deliver pure and adequate drinking water supplies to the citizens of the state.

The Connecticut Water Works Association, Inc. (CWWA) is an association of private, municipal and regional public water supply utilities serving more than 500,000 customers, or population of about 2½ million people, located throughout Connecticut.